

California Interagency Working Group on Indoor Air Quality

Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2000

**Air Resources Board Headquarters
2020 L Street, Sacramento**

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

AGENCY REPORTS ON CURRENT IAQ ACTIVITIES

California Air Resources Board / IAQ & Personal Exposure Assessment Program
California Department of Health Service / Environmental Health Investigations Branch
California Department of Health Service / Indoor Air Quality Section
California Department of Health Service / Occupational Health Branch
California Department of Health Service / Radon Program
California Department of Health Service / Tobacco Control Section
California Department of Industrial Relations (Cal/OSHA)
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory / Indoor Environments Program
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment / Indoor Air Risk Assessment Group
U.S. EPA Region IX / Indoor Environment Team

WORKING GROUP COMMITTEES

Indoor Environmental Quality of Schools
Building Design and Operations

FUTURE MEETINGS

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **AIM2000.** The Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP) is holding its 5th annual investigator meeting (AIM) in San Diego on November 30-December 1 at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina. The meeting's theme will be *Environmental Tobacco Smoke: Dying Without Trying?* It will feature a plenary session examining the biological and epidemiological evidence of the harmful effects of ETS and the policy implications of these findings. On the day prior to the conference, the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the Tobacco Control Section of California's Department of Health Services, and a group of nicotine dependence researchers are joining TRDRP to conduct a variety of workshops. Registration is free, however, space is limited. Information can be found at <http://www.ucop.edu/srphome/trdrp/welcome.html>.
- **NSF meeting.** The Second NSF International Conference on Indoor Air Health will be held in Miami Beach, Florida, on January 29 - 31, 2001. The conference theme is *Trends and Advances in Risk Assessment and Management*. This conference examines the status of practices that gauge risk assessment and management for the protection of public health. The conference offers policy perspectives, recent advances in risk assessment, and applications in product stewardship. Industry progress is recognized, and successful processes employed on a daily basis are identified. For more details: <http://www.nsf.org/conference/air2/index.html>.
- **Asthma & Allergen Training Course.** U.S. EPA Region IX is sponsoring the University of Tulsa training course, *Indoor Air Quality: Asthma and Allergen Control*, January 22-23, 2001 at the Elihu Harris State Office Building in Oakland. More information is given in the [U.S.EPA Region IX report](#).

[▲ back to top](#)

AGENCY REPORTS ON CURRENT IAQ ACTIVITIES

California Air Resources Board / Indoor Air Quality & Personal Exposure Assessment Program

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/indoor/indoor.htm>

B Peggy Jenkins (mjenkins@arb.ca.gov)

Portable Classrooms Study. The ARB/DHS study of environmental health conditions in portable classrooms is moving forward on schedule. Three proposals were received in response to the Request for Proposals, which was released on August 1. On November 3, 2000, ARB's Research Screening Committee, an external scientific advisory panel, concurred with staff's review giving the proposal from Research Triangle Institute the highest score. The Air Resources Board will consider the proposed contract award at its regular monthly meeting on December 7, and a contract is expected to be in place in February. ARB has established a webpage for the study

(<http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/indoor/pcs/pcs.htm>), plus a list-serve for interested parties to keep abreast of study progress and developments. [Related activities by DHS-IAQ are described below.](#)

Indoor Cooking Study. ARB's Research Screening Committee also approved a draft final report from Arcadis on an indoor cooking study they conducted for ARB. Results showed very high levels of particles and elevated levels of formaldehyde and some other pollutants emitted during certain common cooking activities. This confirms that cooking can contribute significantly to pollutant exposures of the occupants, especially those of the cook. Some additions and revisions to the report are needed. The final report should be available in three months.

Indoor/Personal Particle (PM) Exposure Study. ARB's Research Screening Committee also approved funding for a study by Harvard that will provide detailed characterization of indoor, outdoor, and personal PM concentrations and exposures. Monitoring will be conducted on 12 healthy subjects in Los Angeles for nine days each and will include personal, indoor, and outdoor levels of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} composition. Study results will be used by ARB to improve estimates of exposures to PM from different sources, to better understand the results of epidemiology studies, and to develop more effective strategies for reducing PM exposures.

New Cal/EPA Building. ARB's Research Division was among the first to move to the new Cal/EPA building at 1001 I Street in Sacramento. The 25-story building has many features to assure good indoor air quality. These include: the use of low and no-VOC paints and other wet building products; low-emitting carpet tiles that do not contain 4-PC and do not require wet adhesive; and workstations that meet the State of Washington office furniture emission requirements. Additionally, as generally recommended in the DHS guidelines for new office buildings, each floor is being flushed with 100% outdoor air for at least two weeks prior to occupancy and several weeks after occupancy. Monitoring has been conducted on several floors—all VOCs have been below levels at which acute health effects would be seen. After five weeks of flushing, two floors were re-tested and levels generally were reduced by 50%. Because each floor has a separate ventilation system, each floor can be controlled and flushed separately. This is not common in large office buildings, but has the advantage of allowing more specific control of each floor, and problems on one floor generally will not affect other floors.

Update on Indoor Symposium Summary and Board Meeting. The proceedings of the Indoor Air Quality Symposium held in May are expected to be available for distribution to symposium attendees and interested parties in January. The presentation by Indoor Program staff to the Air Resources Board scheduled for fall has been postponed until April, 2001.

Green Building Task Force. Together with DHS and several other agencies, staff remain active on the State's Green Building Task Force. Additionally, staff have been participating in meetings convened by the office of the Secretary of Consumer Affairs to facilitate implementation of Executive Order D-16-00 on sustainable state buildings. Staff also have been actively working with the Collaborative on High Performance Schools to assure good indoor air quality in schools. Each of these activities has involved review of various draft documents.

[▲ back to top](#)

California Department of Health Service / Environmental Health Investigations Branch

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/deodc/ehib/>

B Sandra McNeel (SMcNeel@dhs.ca.gov)

California County Asthma Mortality and Hospitalization Rates. EHIB staff has produced two reports on county rates of asthma from 1990 through 1997. The report on asthma hospitalization rates by county has just been approved for public release. The county asthma mortality report publication was announced at the last meeting. Hard copies are available by contacting Julie Von Behren. They will also soon be available through the EHIB web site:

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/deodc/ehib/EHIB2/topics/asthma.html>. (Contact: Julie Von Behren, jvonbehr@dhs.ca.gov).

Schools. In response to notification of an upcoming national news story, EHIB staff prepared a fact sheet for county health departments regarding molds in schools. The Sunday newspaper supplement *USA Weekend* featured an article on health effects associated with indoor molds in schools in the August 20 issue. Staff distributed a factsheet on indoor molds to all local health officers to help their staff respond to inquiries from the public. Sandy McNeel is preparing information specifically directed to school administrators on remediation and prevention of indoor molds.

Legislative Bill Analyses. EHIB staff analyzed several bills during the last quarter either directly or indirectly involving indoor air quality (Contact: Debra Gilliss, dgilliss@dhs.ca.gov). These include:

- SB 1631 (Hayden): required DHS to consult with Cal-EPA to set standards for toxics at school sites [died in Senate Appropriations Committee];
- AB 2260 (Shelley): Healthy Schools bill – originally included DHS role in developing an environmental hazards “best practices” manual and a train-the-trainers program for school district personnel [all sections relating to DHS were removed during last revision and bill was enrolled].
- AB 2264 (Cedillo): William Mead Homes – Directs DHS health study of alleged exposure of residents to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons originating from an old refinery and storage tanks [enrolled].

Publications. Gayle Windham, Barbara Hopkins, Laura Fenster and Shanna Swan. Prenatal active or passive tobacco smoke exposure and the risk of preterm delivery or low birth weight. *Epidemiology*. 11: 427-433, 2000. (Contact: Gayle Windham, gwindham@dhs.ca.gov).

[▲ back to top](#)

California Department of Health Service / Indoor Air Quality Section

B Jed Waldman (JWaldman@dhs.ca.gov)

<http://www.cal-iaq.org>

Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) Study. Jeff Wagner, a post-graduate scientist, has joined our project team. With his assistance, the experimental set up at LBNL has been completed and a number of tests have been conducted with tracer gas. Tests are planned using tracer gas and cigarette smoke. We have done some preliminary analysis to the CTS data. We are planning to hire a part-time Research Associate to assist with the analysis of the data. Contact: Leon Alevantis, Lalevant@dhs.ca.gov.

Portable Classroom Study. To provide a comprehensive, up-to-date listing of classrooms in California, we are preparing a survey form that will compile numbers and ages of portable classrooms in each school district. It will be sent to all ~1000 districts later this fall. Additional activities described in the [ARB Section](#).

Sierra Radon Survey. Results of Radon measurements for 25 Sierra region elementary schools were compiled. Because several schools had concentrations above the EPA-action level (4 pCi/l) and the study period was limited to the spring months and only 3-4 months, it was decided that repeated measurements would be carried out for all schools, starting in the fall. Contact: Feng Tsai, FTsai@dhs.ca.gov.

[▲ back to top](#)

California Department of Health Service / Occupational Health Branch

B Jim Cone (Jcone@ohb.org) and Liz Katz (Ekatz@dhs.ca.gov)

<http://www.ohb.gov>

1-Bromopropane Toxicity Review. HESIS is evaluating reproductive toxicity information for 1-bromopropane, a cleaning agent introduced as an alternative to ozone-depleting solvents in industry. Both male and female reproductive effects are potential concerns. HESIS toxicologists will determine whether an "early warning" to workers and employers is warranted for this chemical.

n-Hexane Medical Guidelines. HESIS has developed medical guidelines for the identification, diagnosis, and treatment of n-hexane-induced peripheral neuropathy. The guidelines are available on the Occupational Health Branch web site, <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ohb>.

Tuberculosis Investigation in Jail Employees. HESIS reviewed an employee tuberculosis testing program at Sacramento County Jail. The investigation was made upon the request of Cal/OSHA's Medical Unit, after an inmate in the general prison population was found to have active (communicable) TB. After meeting with officials and reviewing policies and records, recommendations were submitted

regarding the structure and content for a comprehensive facility-wide TB control program.

Combining Pollution Prevention with Occupational Health in the Vehicle Repair Industry. The Department of Toxic Substances Control is studying the use of water-based brake and parts cleaning systems as a substitute for organic solvent-based cleaners. HESIS will provide technical assistance on how occupational health and safety issues can be addressed simultaneously with pollution prevention by the DTSC hazardous materials inspectors.

[▲ back to top](#)

California Department of Health Service / Radon Program

B Richard Blood (Rblood@dhs.ca.gov)

New CIWG-IAQ Representative. David Quinton has retired (enjoy, Dave!), and Richard Blood has taken on the duties to run the DHS Radon Program. Welcome, Richard.

Radon Rule for Drinking Water. EPA proposed new regulations to reduce the public health risks from radon on November 2, 1999 in the Federal Register (64 FR 59246). The Radon Program will be taking the lead for the DHS response. Information on the rule and its status can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/radon/proposal.html>.

[▲ back to top](#)

California Department of Health Service / Tobacco Control Section

B Joanne Wellman-Benson (JWellman@dhs.ca.gov)

Workshop on ETS. On the day before the TRDRP AIM2000 conference, the Tobacco Control Section will hold a workshop to address *Evaluating Progress in Reducing Exposure to Secondhand Smoke in California*. It will be held on November 30 from 2-5 pm. See [General Announcements](#).

[▲ back to top](#)

California Department of Industrial Relations (Cal/OSHA)

<http://www.dir.ca.gov/DIR/OS&H/DOSH/dosh1.html>

B Bob Nakamura (bnakamura@hq.dir.ca.gov)

Worth repeating. New Phone Numbers. Phone numbers of many of the Cal/OSHA offices have changed in recent years. The new headquarters phone number is (415) 703-5100. Updated information can be found on-line: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/DOSH/offices.html>.

Asbestos Training Approval Program. This new program to approve asbestos training courses has approved 21 trainers, which includes the course content for some 100 courses. There are another 8 trainers who have requested approval.

Airborne Contaminants 8 CCR 5155. Some 40 substances had Permissible Exposure Limits

(PELs) modified or established. The most interesting for this group is the limit set for fiberglass of 1.0 fiber/cc (listed as "Glass, fibrous"). The initial hearing for the list of changes was on May 2, 2000, and the next standards Board hearing that will include this section is set for October.

Heat Stress Standard. The Division has held two advisory committee meetings to review the need and issues involved in proposing a standard for heat stress. A draft proposal was review at the October 24 meeting. For more information, please contact Bob Barish at 415/703-5161.

New Cal/OSHA representative. Jim Lim has retired, and Bob Nakamura will attend CIWG-IAQ meetings in the future. He can be reached at the e-mail above or at (415) 703-5160.

[▲ back to top](#)

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory / Indoor Environments Program

B Mike Apte (MGAPte@lbl.gov)

<http://eetd.lbl.gov/iep/iep.html>

Department Head Search. The IED is currently conducting a search for a new department head. William Fisk is acting head. Professor Nazaroff of UCB Civil & Environmental Engineering Department is chairing the search for LBNL. The job posting can be found at http://eetd.lbl.gov/IED_search.html.

[▲ back to top](#)

Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment / Indoor Air Risk Assessment Group

B Richard Lam (RLam@oehha.ca.gov)

<http://www.oehha.org/>

Indoor Reference Exposure Levels (IRELs). OEHHA has developed IRELs for benzene, chloroform, formaldehyde, methyl chloroform, methyl ethyl ketone, methylene chloride, nitrogen dioxide, perchloroethylene, styrene, and toluene. The IRELs (1, 8 or 24-hour) were derived from OEHHA's Hot Spots Acute REL document. These draft IRELs are presently undergoing internal review. More IRELs will be developed in the future.

SB 25 - Children's Environmental Health Protection. OEHHA and ARB are required by this bill to determine whether, based on public health, scientific literature, and exposure pattern data, the current standards protect the health of the public, including infants and children, with adequate margin of safety. The OEHHA/ARB joint report entitled " Adequacy of California's Air Quality Standards, Senate Bill 25 - Children's Environmental Health Protection" (download from http://www.oehha.ca.gov/air/toxic_contaminants/AQAC1.html) includes discussion on seven pollutants - carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter and sulfates, lead, and hydrogen sulfide. OEHHA and ARB organized two public workshops in September (Sacramento and Los Angeles) to obtain public input and to respond to public questions and comments. The Air Quality Advisory Committee had a public meeting in Berkeley (October 12-13, 2000) to discuss the health protectiveness of these standards and to help OEHHA and ARB decide which standards should be prioritized for full review and possible revision over the next few years.

Green Building Taskforce and Technical Group. OEHHA continues to work with Secretary

Adams staff and other stakeholders on a document to fulfill the requirements of the Governor's Executive Order D-16-00 on Sustainable Building Practices.

ARB/DHS Portable Classroom Study. OEHHA provides technical support to ARB and DHS on this study (see ARB on write-up).

Traffic Study. On-going. The contract with LBL in place. See last CIWG-IAQ minutes for details. Contact person: Dr. Janice Kim, (510) 622-3198, Jkim@oehha.ca.gov.

Web-site Documents. The following documents are now available on the OEHHA website:

- Diesel exhaust fact sheet (9/29/2000), http://www.oehha.ca.gov/air/diesel_exhaust/index.html
- The Toxics Directory: Resources, July, 2000, http://www.oehha.ca.gov/public_info/public/99Tox_dir.html
- Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program Risk Assessment Guidelines, Part I: Technical Support Document for The Determination of Acute Reference Exposure Levels for Airborne Toxicants, http://www.oehha.ca.gov/air/acute_rels/acuterel.html
- Air Toxics Hot Spots Program Risk Assessment Guidelines, Part III. The Determination of Chronic Reference Exposure Levels for Airborne Toxicants [02/23/2000], http://www.oehha.ca.gov/air/chronic_rels/22RELS2k.html
- Air Toxics Hot Spots Program document Risk Assessment Guidelines. Part IV. Technical Support Document for Exposure Assessment and Stochastic Analysis (September 2000), http://www.oehha.ca.gov/air/exposure_assess/index.html
- Adoption of Chronic Reference Exposure Levels (RELs) for Airborne Toxicants, http://www.oehha.ca.gov/air/chronic_rels/42kChREL.html

[▲ back to top](#)

U.S. EPA Region IX / Indoor Environment Team

B Barbara Spark (spark.barbara@epamail.epa.gov)

http://www.epa.gov/oar/oria_ied.html

Asthma-related Activities. We will present the University of Tulsa training course, *Indoor Air Quality: Asthma and Allergen Control*, January 22-23, 2001 at the Elihu Harris State Office Building in Oakland. DHS is a co-sponsor. Sandra McNeel of DHS EHIB and Michael Lipsett of OEHHA will speak on health. Richard Shaughnessy, Philip Morey and Eugene Cole will present on IAQ basics, cleaning for health, allergen remediation, and air cleaning. This training will be invaluable for a wide variety of stakeholders in public health, housing, schools, asthma coalitions, as well as the usual professions directly involved in IAQ. Since this may be our final general IAQ course offering, and we've gotten to a late start in getting the word out, we'd appreciate assistance from IWG members. You'll be sent a "forwardable" e-mail message with the particulars. Course information will *soon* be posted at <http://www.utulsa.edu/iaqprogram> (click on "Class Schedule"). Contact: Barbara Spark spark.barbara@epa.gov

Our headquarters office, the USEPA Indoor Environments Division, has awarded \$100,000 to the San Francisco County Department of Public Health to conduct an in-home project related to education and assistance related to identification and reduction of indoor environmental triggers for asthma. Project

Coordinators are Rajiv Bhatia, MD, Director, Occupational and Environmental Health Sections, and Karen Cohn, Manager, Children's Environmental Health Program. Only two such grants were awarded nationally, with the other awarded to Children's Hospital, Philadelphia. Contact: Barbara Spark

Barbara Spark participated in a two-day workshop on asthma coalitions hosted by the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program and the American College of Chest Physicians at the national CHEST conference in San Francisco, October 25-26. She advocated for greater engagement with the school indoor environment being added on to ongoing activities relating to clinical management of asthma in schools.

Barbara Spark has been invited to serve on the Advisory Committee of RAMP, the Regional Asthma Management and Prevention Initiative.

Managing Asthma in the School Environment is a new document that has been created for the IAQ Tools for Schools Action Kit program, and will be included in the new printing of the Kit which is expected early next year. See <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/whatsnew.html>

Tools for School. Visalia Unified School District, which is implementing the *IAQ Tools for Schools* program at all thirty-two of its school sites, is playing an leadership role in the Central Valley. They've not only held two IAQ TFS training workshops since the beginning of this school year, but have also thrown out a wide net to other school districts to include them in this process. Contact: Shelly Rosenblum or Visalia USD Risk Manager Susan Cox, (559) 730-7538 scox@visalia.k12.ca.us

Dr. Richard Shaughnessy will join us in Long Beach on December 6, 2000 to provide an IAQ Tools for Schools workshop for LBUSD and surrounding school districts. Southern California CIWG-IAQ members who would like to attend - or would like to facilitate attendance by school districts - can contact Barbara Spark for more information.

Shelly Rosenblum and Barbara Spark joined Beth Saiki of the American Lung Association of San Francisco and San Mateo Counties to provide a training workshop for AIHA members who are volunteering to serve as "mentors" for "IAQ Tools for Schools" pilot implementation schools in the S.F. Bay Area. Over 20 AIHA members are participating. Interested potential "mentors" can contact Beth Saiki, (650) 994-LUNG. (Many ALA chapters around the state are working to help schools implement "IAQ Tools for Schools." Barbara Spark, Shelly Rosenblum or Louise Hill hill.louise@epa.gov can help make the connection.)

Saugus USD Experience. The Winter issue of the *CASBO Journal* (California Association of School Business Officials) will include a feature article by Adina Neale, Indoor Air Coordinator for the Saugus Union School District, about that district's indoor air crisis, and how implementation of the "IAQ Tools for Schools Action Kit" program helped restore sustainable community trust after EHIB provided technical assistance (helping both the school administration and the larger school community to understand some of scientific and medical issues which had been raised). We expect the CASBO article to give a big boost to outreach efforts on "IAQ Tools for Schools." Contact: Shelly Rosenblum rosenblum.shelly@epa.gov

Saugus Union School District received a national award for its work implementing the IAQ Tools for Schools” program at a national symposium on school IAQ held in Baltimore in August. Saugus also has joined the ranks of California school districts with formal IAQ policies. To view the Saugus Board policy, see <http://www.saugus.k12.ca.us/points/iaq/env2.htm>

Mold Remediation Guidance. The Indoor Environments Division went public with an informal announcement of our upcoming guidance document, *Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings*, in an interview with an IAQ newsletter publisher. Release on our internet site <http://www.epa.gov/iaq> is expected “early in 2001,” with print publication to follow. New items, including revisions and additions to the IAQ Tools for Schools Action Kit, are being posted all the time, so it’s a good idea to check back with the web site on a regular basis.

[▲ back to top](#)

WORKING GROUP COMMITTEES

Indoor Environmental Quality of Schools

B Jed Waldman (JWaldman@dhs.ca.gov)

Healthy School Legislature, 2000 session. Assemblyman Shelly’s bill, AB 2260, passed and was signed into law. The chaptered bill addresses pesticide use, but sections on best management practices for healthy schools were eliminated from the earlier versions. View text:

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_2251-2300/ab_2260_bill_20000927_chaptered.html.

School Health Connections. This joint CDE and DHS project has issued a blueprint Building Infrastructure for Coordinated School Health. It identifies six goals to enable California's children and adolescents to become healthy, successful students at school and contributing members in their communities. The document can be downloaded from the CDE web site:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/cyfsbranch/lsp/health/>

[▲ back to top](#)

Building Design and Operations

B Leon Alevantis (LAlevantis@dhs.ca.gov)

Environmental Specifications for Office Workstations. A final specification was issued in September 2000. The invitation to bid was issued by DGS on 9/26/00 (Solicitation No. 49118). Bids are due on 11/3/00. A list of over 60 VOCs is required to be reported. Maximum concentrations have been established for seven classes of VOCs based on existing European recommendations. A maximum concentration was established for formaldehyde based on OEHHA’s acute 1-hour Reference Exposure Level (REL). If the successful bidder does not meet the “stringent” California formaldehyde requirement, they will have up to 12 months to comply or they will be in default. The furniture specifications are available on our web site at <http://www.cal-iaq.org/VOC/workstation.pdf>.

Sustainability Executive Order. The Governor signed Executive Order (D-16-00) on sustainable

building measures on August 2, 2000. The full text is posted on the Governor's web site at <http://www.governor.ca.gov/briefing/execorder/d1600.html>. Although the Executive Order was changed significantly from what the Green Building Taskforce had originally proposed, we view it as a substantial and positive step forward. The Order directs the Secretary of Consumer Affairs to submit a report to the Governor within six months, with recommended strategies for incorporating sustainable building practices into the development of State facilities. The original Green Building Taskforce group has been expanded to include representatives of more agencies and will be working with Secretary Adams and her staff on this report and the recommendations.

Green Building TaskForce. Due to the signing of Executive Order D-16 by Governor Davis in August, the Green Building Taskforce has been focusing on: (a) drafting a modified version of the LEED rating system applicable to California; and (b) assisting in the report required by the executive order. HDR has been retained by DGS to investigate the implementation of green measures in a limited number of already-budgeted state projects. The existing Tier lists will be used as a guide. DOF has agreed to this investigation and will consider funding of HDR's recommendations. At this point, it is unclear what criteria may be used to fund any "green designs". Future plans are to incorporate funds for green measures very early during the capital outlay process and before the budget packages have been finalized.

Capitol Area East End Project. In July, the Hensel Phelps Team submitted to the State their Special Environmental Requirements. This specification addresses indoor air quality and recycled content requirements for the building materials of Block 225. The indoor air quality requirements are similar to those specified in the office furniture contract but the list of VOCs has been reduced to 21 selected compounds and maximum acceptable concentrations are based on OEHHA's list of chronic Reference Exposure Level (REL). The 21 compounds were selected based on recent research conducted by LBNL on emissions from various building materials. We have been working with both Design/Build Teams to address a number of green issues. Members of the Green Team have been participating in monthly meetings of the Green Focus Group which consists of representatives from both Teams as well as DGS. Finally the quarterly report to the Joint Rules Committee has been prepared.

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FUTURE MEETINGS

Upcoming meetings of the CIWG-IAQ are scheduled as follows:

- C March 14, 2001, CARB Headquarters, Sacramento
- C June 13, 2001, TBA
- C September 12, 2001, TBA
- C December 12, 2001, TBA

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